



Doing What's Best for Kids



January 28, 2013

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Alberta Education invites you to play an important role in your child's education through the Accountability Pillar Surveys. Every year the provincial government sends out surveys to teachers, students and parents as a way of gathering information on the quality of education provided by schools in the province. Teacher and student surveys are conducted online, parents are surveyed by mail.

The Accountability Pillar is, simply put, a set of goals Alberta Education provides to schools. Some of these goals include **Safe and Caring** (an agreement between teachers, parents and students that students are safe at school, are learning the importance of caring for others, are learning respect for others and are treated fairly at school). Other goals are **Student Learning Achievements** (Provincial Achievement/Diploma Exams), **Continuous Improvement** (teacher, student and parent perceptions that their school and schools in their jurisdiction have improved or stayed the same in the last three years) and **Parental Involvement** (teacher and parent satisfaction with parental involvement in decisions about their child's education).

Once goals are established and are being implemented in the classrooms, a way to measure their success is needed. The Accountability Pillar Survey is an innovative and straightforward way to measure our learning goals as schools. The Survey's end report will show a variety of important information to parents, teachers, school authorities, students and the province - information like how we've improved, where we've remained consistent and what we need to continue to work toward.

From January to the end of February, Alberta Education will be conducting the annual Accountability Pillar Survey. In January, **parents of students in grades 4 to 8 will receive a survey** from Alberta Education. In February, **students in grades 4 to 8 and all teachers will be completing their surveys online at school**. Survey results will be available to school authorities in May 2013, and will be reported publicly as part of their Three Year Educational Strategic and Annual Education Results Reports

All surveys are anonymous and are available in a variety of languages. In addition to English and French, the parent survey is available in Chinese, Punjabi, Arabic, Blackfoot, Cree, Korean, Spanish and Tagalog.

It is extremely important to us that The Accountability Pillar surveys be filled out by students, parents and teachers and returned promptly. Your participation helps provide important information on the quality of education your child is receiving.

More details about the Accountability Pillar are available at education.alberta.ca/accountability or on the Alberta Education website at Education.Alberta.ca